

Annexation Element

Purpose and Relationship to GMA

The purpose of the Annexation Element is to identify unincorporated territory on the periphery of the City limits to which Bothell is capable of providing services over the time horizon of this plan, and to provide policy direction for annexation of properties within such territory.

The Growth Management Act does not require an annexation element, but annexation issues comprise an intrinsic component in the establishment of urban growth areas and in planning for areas between cities within the urban growth areas.

Planning Area Profile

The original incorporation of the City in 1909 covered 450.45 acres (0.7 square miles). Between 1909 and 1950 Bothell actually grew smaller, as the Council shortly after incorporation approved a detachment of around 14 acres to transfer to King County the responsibility for repairs to the 102nd Avenue Bridge. Starting in the 1950's, annexations began to increase the size of the City at a fairly rapid rate, although most of these were of undeveloped land and thus did not add large amounts of population right away. By the 1990's most unincorporated land around Bothell was developed, and annexations since then have brought substantial numbers of "instant" City residents. In particular, the Canyon Park Annexation in 1992 increased the area of the City by around six square miles and the population by around 10,000 persons. And in 2014 the City simultaneously annexed its remaining nine designated potential annexation areas in King County, adding a total of about 1.5 square miles and over 6,000 residents to Bothell. **Table AN-1** below summarizes annexation activity for the City of Bothell from the date of incorporation through 2014.

Table AN-1: Historical summary of annexation activity to the City of Bothell

Time period	Number of annexations	Number of detachments	Area in acres	Total cumulative City population*
1909 Incorporation			450.45	599
1909 - 1950		1	-14.20	1,041
1951 - 1955	9		168.26	1,339
1956 - 1960	20		793.16	2,519
1961 - 1965	12		105.65	3,400
1966 - 1970	6		610.09	5,386
1971 - 1975	17		358.90	6,036
1976 - 1980	13		137.08	7,488
1981 - 1985	17		283.99	8,825
1986 - 1990	15		441.26	12,990
1991 - 1995	18		4,181.20	25,965
1996 - 2000	5		46.50	30,470
2001 - 2005	1		10.60	30,930
2006 - 2010				
2011 - 2014	10		1,015.9	41,630
Totals	143	1	8,588.84	41,630 (2014)

*Population figures are for the first year following the time period noted.

The majority of annexations up until 1990 were driven by a desire on the part of property owners to connect to City utilities so as to enable more intensive development of their parcels. Since then, the impetus for annexation has been the desire for City services, such as law enforcement, street maintenance, storm water management and land use planning.

Development of Goals, Policies and Actions

In the 1990's, to satisfy the requirements of the Growth Management Act and the King County and Snohomish County CPPs, the City of Bothell, in consultation with King County, Snohomish County, and the cities of Brier, Lynnwood, Mill Creek, Woodinville, Kirkland and Kenmore, identified 11 unincorporated areas to which Bothell would be the most logical provider of urban services. These potential annexation areas were formally designated in the *Imagine Bothell...* Plan and the King County and Snohomish County CPPs. Such potential annexation areas are abbreviated as PAAs in the KCCPPs and are termed Municipal Urban Growth Areas, or MUGAs, in the SCCPPs.

The City subsequently entered into interlocal agreements with both counties to provide for the orderly transition of services in the event of annexation. Additionally, the city entered into service transition interlocal agreements with the two King County fire districts (16 and 36) which served the City's potential annexation areas in King County.

As of the 2015 Periodic Update, all but one of these 11 areas have been annexed. One of the two areas comprising the MUGA in Snohomish County was annexed effective December, 2012. The nine King County potential annexation areas were annexed simultaneously effective February, 2014: Bothell has now annexed out to its Planning Area boundaries in King County. The remaining potential annexation area comprises 3,608 acres of unincorporated Snohomish County territory, wrapping around the Bothell city limits to the west, north and east. Two citizen efforts to annex this area in its entirety failed, in 2011 and 2012. It is likely that this area will annex incrementally, neighborhood by neighborhood, over the coming years, as property owners seek access to City services.

The City does not anticipate designating any additional potential annexation areas prior to the next Periodic Update, which would occur in 2023. The only circumstances under which this might be warranted would be if Snohomish County were to expand the Southwest County Urban Growth Area to the east, or if Brier, Lynnwood or Mill Creek were to desire to abandon portions of their designated potential annexation areas adjacent to Bothell's planning area.

Bothell's designated potential annexation area, comprising the City's remaining MUGA in Snohomish County, is depicted in Figure **AN-1**. This element's Goals, Policies and Actions provide direction for the eventual annexation of the MUGA, and reinforce the importance of maintaining interlocal agreements already in place.

Annexation

Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal

- AN-G1 To continue to extend cost-effective high quality municipal services, via the process of annexation, throughout the unincorporated portions of the City's adopted Planning Area.

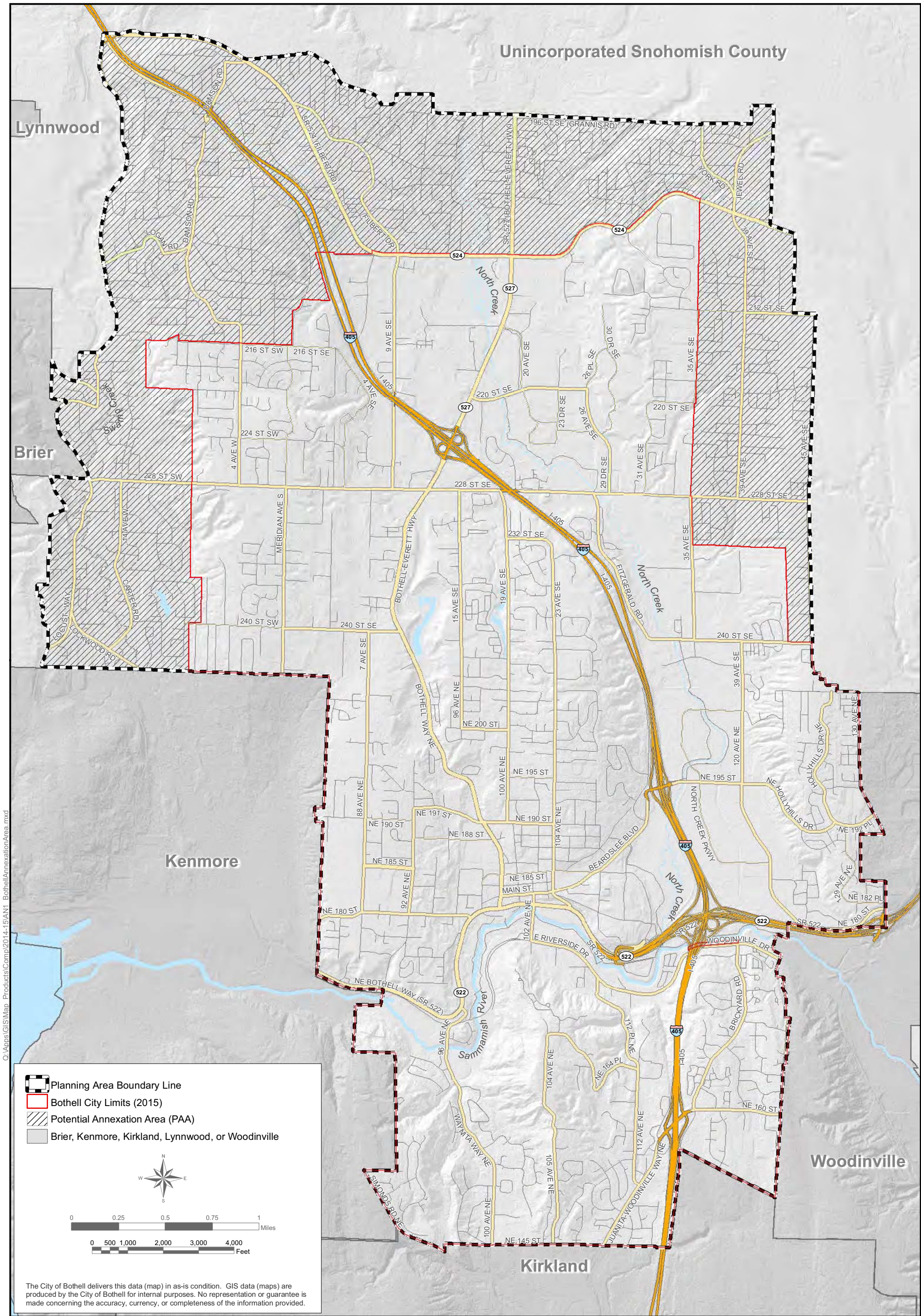
Policies

- AN-P1 The City shall neither propose to annex nor accept requests to annex unincorporated territory located outside the urban growth area.
- AN-P2 Within the urban growth area, promote annexation of the City's designated Municipal Urban Growth Area (MUGA) in Snohomish County, as depicted in Figure AN-1, Potential Annexation Area, consistent with the Snohomish County Countywide Planning Policies and in conformance with state annexation law and the Growth Management Act.
- AN-P3 Evaluate proposed annexations based on the following criteria:
1. The ability of the City to provide public services at a level equal to or better than that available from current service providers;
 2. The ability of the City to provide public services at the City's adopted levels of service;
 3. Whether the annexation would follow logical boundaries, such as streets, waterways, or substantial topographic changes;
 4. Whether the annexation would eliminate an irregularity or irregularities in the City's boundaries, thereby improving service delivery; and
 5. The relative costs to serve the proposed annexation versus the revenue to be derived from the annexation.
- AN-P4 Maintain and update as warranted interlocal agreements with King and Snohomish Counties providing for the transition of services within potential annexation areas, including collaborative sub-area and neighborhood planning.
- AN-P5 Ensure that annexations are processed in accordance with State annexation laws in a timely and efficient manner.
- AN-P6 Plan the extension of City services throughout the City's Planning Area so as to prevent "leapfrog" development from occurring.
- AN-P7 Seek to expand the area of annexation proposals when such an expansion would serve to make city boundaries more regular or where the area to be served is a logical extension of city service capabilities and is within a defined potential annexation area.

- AN-P8 Support proposed annexations by providing objective information concerning City services via open houses; the City website and newsletter; in-person, telephone and e-mail communications; and other means.
- AN-P9 Should Snohomish County expand the Southwest County Urban Growth Area or a city adjacent to Bothell seek to reduce its MUGA, evaluate whether a commensurate non-overlapping expansion of the Bothell MUGA is warranted, based on the ability of the City to serve the expanded area at that time or in the future.

Actions

- AN-A1 When an annexation is proposed, survey property owners in the surrounding area to determine if the annexation might be expanded, provided that the survey can be accomplished within the time constraints set by State law for processing annexations. Support proposed annexations by providing objective information concerning City services via open houses; the City website and newsletter; in-person, telephone and e-mail communications; and other means.
- AN-A2 In addition to supporting specific proposed annexations, continue to provide general information about annexation to unincorporated residents throughout the Planning Area, on a systematic basis, through open houses, mail-outs, the City newsletter or website, or other means.



Imagine Bothell...Comprehensive Plan
2015 Periodic Plan and Code Update

Figure AN-1
Potential Annexation Area

